

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 246

Introduced by Dubas, 34.

Read first time January 14, 2009

Committee: Natural Resources

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to biotechnology; to amend section 66-1701,
2 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to reestablish the
3 Biopower Steering Committee; to provide for a study;
4 to state intent regarding appropriations; to provide a
5 termination date; and to repeal the original section.
6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 66-1701, Reissue Revised Statutes of
2 Nebraska, is amended to read:

3 66-1701 (1) The Biopower Steering Committee is
4 established. The committee may study the feasibility of generating
5 electricity from the use of biomass and agricultural crops and of
6 supporting a demonstration project which may include a gasification
7 component. The project would include, but not be limited to,
8 use of biomass fuel which is farm-grown biomass or residue from
9 agricultural or wood-product activities. shall conduct a baseline
10 study on the current and potential impact of bioindustry in the
11 State of Nebraska and prepare a strategic plan for developing
12 biotechnology in the State of Nebraska. The study shall determine
13 a baseline analysis that quantifies Nebraska's production and
14 workforce capacity specifically related to biotechnology, including
15 private investment potential and opportunities for research and
16 development in biotechnology specifically within the bioeconomy.
17 The strategic plan shall propose development over a five-year
18 period and shall include, but not be limited to, the production
19 of valuable products from corn, second generation cellulosic
20 technologies, bioplastics, and advanced biofuels. The study shall
21 establish a baseline projection of the market and market value
22 for renewable products in the state made from bioproducts and
23 the possibility of exportation to other markets. The study shall
24 determine the number of jobs that may be generated from expanding
25 the bioeconomy by developing biotechnology and the economic impact

1 on the gross domestic product of the state, specifically relating
2 to manufacturing and ancillary agricultural jobs, and on the
3 unemployment rate.

4 (2) The committee may collect information which may
5 be used by all of Nebraska's public utilities to develop
6 biopower electricity projects, including, but not limited to, the
7 exploration of how the use of instate resources for electricity
8 production might benefit the rural economy, an economic analysis
9 of benefits to Nebraska from the use of instate rather than
10 out-of-state resources, and the potential to reduce gaseous
11 emissions.

12 (3) The committee shall consist of: ~~(1)~~ (a) Three
13 representatives from the Nebraska Power Association, one
14 public interest representative, and one environmental interest
15 representative, all appointed by the Governor; ~~(2)~~ (b) two
16 agricultural representatives appointed by the Governor; ~~(3)~~ (c)
17 a representative of the State Energy Office appointed by the
18 Governor; ~~(4)~~ (d) the Director of Economic Development or his
19 or her designee; ~~(5)~~ (e) a representative of the Game and Parks
20 ~~Commission~~ pharmacological industry appointed by the Governor;
21 ~~(6)~~ (f) the chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture of the
22 Legislature as an ex officio, nonvoting member; and ~~(7)~~ (g)
23 the chairperson of the Committee on Natural Resources of the
24 Legislature as an ex officio, nonvoting member. ~~Committee members~~
25 Members of the Biopower Steering Committee shall be reimbursed for

1 actual and necessary expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to
2 81-1177.

3 (4) The Biopower Steering Committee shall seek federal
4 and other grant funds and resources from Nebraska's public
5 utilities and from other public and private sources to carry
6 out any study and to implement any demonstration project which may
7 be undertaken. The Biopower Development Cash Fund is created. Funds
8 received by the committee shall be remitted to the State Treasurer
9 for credit to the Biopower Development Cash Fund. Any money in
10 the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state
11 investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act
12 and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

13 ~~The committee shall report its findings to the Committee~~
14 ~~on Natural Resources by December 1 each year.~~

15 (5) For purposes of this section:

16 (a) Bioeconomy means economic activity derived from
17 scientific and research activity focused on understanding
18 mechanisms and processes at the genetic and molecular levels and
19 its application to industrial processes;

20 (b) Bioindustry means industry related to biotechnology;
21 and

22 (c) Biotechnology means the technological application
23 that uses biological systems, living organisms, or derivatives
24 thereof to make or modify products or processes for specific use.

25 (6) The committee shall present the study and plan to

1 the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature on or before
2 December 1, 2010, and shall present updates to the plan annually
3 thereafter.

4 (7) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate
5 two hundred thousand dollars for fiscal year 2009-10 from the
6 General Fund to the Biopower Development Cash Fund for purposes of
7 this section.

8 (8) The Biopower Steering Committee terminates on
9 December 31, 2008-2012.

10 Sec. 2. Original section 66-1701, Reissue Revised
11 Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.